

## **REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 23, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-5, 11 and 17 were rejected and Claims 6-10, 12-16 and 18 were objected to. Claims 19-23 were allowed. Claims 1-6 and 7-23 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 24 and 25 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 12, 16 and 18 were objected to due to informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 12, 16 and 18 to overcome these objections.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 19-23 are allowed.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 6-10, 12-16, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To place the Application in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications, Applicants amend independent Claim 1 to include the elements of Claim 7 which Applicants now cancel. Accordingly, Independent Claim 1 now reflects originally submitted elements that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, and the remaining claims all depend from allowable independent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,782,203 issued to John M. Check et al. ("Check").

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,045,661 issued to Gotaro Gamo et al. ("Gamo"). Claims 1, 3

and 5 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 63-62,618 listing Kiyoshi Inoue as inventor (“Inoue”).

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections based on Check, Gamo and Inoue are obviated by the incorporation of the limitations for the reasons discussed above and thus request withdrawal of these rejections. Although Applicants believe these claims, without amendment, are allowable over Smith, Applicants amend and cancel claims as discussed above to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original claims without amendment in copending and future applications.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP363062617A filed by Kiyoshi Inoue (“Inoue”) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP363312024A filed by Makoto Tanaka (“Tanaka”). Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent 5,214,260 issued to William R. Fricke (“Fricke”) or U.S. Patent 5,086,202 issued to Takeshi Iwasaki et al. (“Iwasaki”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2, 11, and 17 based on Inoue in view of Tanaka and Fricke in view of Iwasaki are obviated for the reasons discussed above and thus request withdrawal of the §103 rejection. Although Applicants believe the above claims, without amendment, are allowable over Inoue in view of Tanaka and Fricke in view of Iwasaki, Applicants amend and cancel claims as discussed above to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original claims without amendment in copending and future applications.

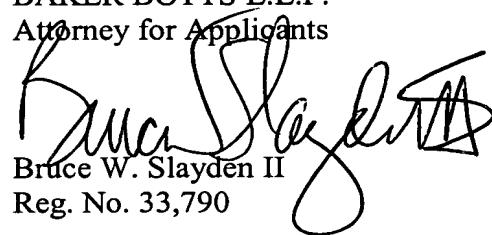
### CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of the claims as amended and new Claims 24 and 25.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$250.00 for the new claims. Applicants also enclose a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, and a check in the amount of \$120.00 for the extension fee. Applicants believe no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,  
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